

State Senator  
**Terry Gerratana's**  
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Please utilize my office if you have questions, issues or concerns regarding a state agency or program. Call me at:

**1-860-240-0584**

Visit my website to reach me via e-mail:

**www.SenatorGerratana.cga.ct.gov**

**Other Helpful phone number:**

INFOLINE (community services)..... 211

Dept. of Motor Vehicles..... 1-800-842-8222

Renter's Rebate Hotline.....860-418-6377

Consumer Protection

Fraud Hotline..... 1-800-842-2649

Health Care Advocate ..... 1-866-466-4446

"Do Not Call" list ..... 1-888-382-1222

Careline (to report

child abuse or neglect) ..... 1-800-842-2288



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**Hoops for the Homeless**

With Liz Urcinas from the Athletics Department at CCSU and Gerry Amodio, executive director of the New Britain Downtown District at the Second Annual "Hoops for the Homeless" event in May.

*Your State Senator*

**Terry Gerratana**

Representing Berlin, Farmington & New Britain



Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Call me @ **860-240-0584**

**www.SenatorGerratana.cga.ct.gov**

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**Helping Seniors Navigate Medicare**

Navigating the services available under the Medicare umbrella can be a complicated process, especially with recent expansions and improvements to the program. I organized an informational presentation at the Berlin Senior Center to provide seniors with the information they need. More than 40 attendees spoke with us about the current state of the program, future changes and addressed their personal concerns.



**Giving a Boost to Working Families**

Hardworking people around Connecticut deserve to earn an honest wage for their work. We passed a bill that will raise Connecticut's minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour by 2017. This modest boost will help those earning the least to make ends meet. Increasing the minimum wage is one important step we can take to begin to address the widening income gap and to give people a chance at economic mobility.

**Investing in Small Businesses**

I had the opportunity to visit Biopellet in Berlin, where owners Steven Lanata and Jason Blakeslee showed me how they used Connecticut's Small Business Express program to create new jobs and make their business more efficient. Biopellet manufactures small bricks from recycled sawdust to be used as a fuel source in fireplaces and wood stoves. Biopellet was the first company in the country to manufacture these bricks, which now keep families warm all across the Northeast.





# Terry Gerratana

## Committed to Economic Recovery

Since the start of the global economic recession I've made it my mission as your State Senator to help small and mid-size businesses grow, create and retain jobs and put people back to work. As a result of bipartisan legislation, we launched the STEP-Up and Small Business Express programs which have assisted almost 2,000 of Connecticut's small businesses create or preserve more than 17,000 jobs. These initiatives offer job training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and grants for small businesses.

Over the last four years we have created more than 65,000 jobs and our unemployment rate recently fell below 7 percent for the first time since 2009. However, our work is not done.

Looking forward, Connecticut's new partnership with United Technologies Corporation will solidify our position as a world leader in aerospace manufacturing. Most importantly, this agreement has a direct impact on the 75,000 jobs at the thousands of aerospace supply chain companies throughout the state, ensuring they are keeping and creating good-paying jobs with good benefits for men and women in nearly every city and town in Connecticut.



I recently had a chance to chat with New Britain resident and machinist Felton Mann, Sr. and New Britain native and manufacturing engineer Mark Stepien, both of whom work at A-1 Machining Co. in New Britain. I worked to help secure state funding for A-1 to expand its business, creating or retaining 63 jobs for area residents.

## Jobs for Veterans

I supported a bill that will remove barriers to entry into the civilian workplace for those who learned employable skills while in the service. This legislation will require state licensing authorities to accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for other requirements, and will allow veterans to gain streamlined occupational certifications.



Veterans talk to employers at a Heroes for Hire job fair.

## Resources to Grow Jobs

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org)
- **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: [tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress](http://tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress), or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or [Michelle.Peters@ct.gov](mailto:Michelle.Peters@ct.gov)
- **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: [www.stepct.com](http://www.stepct.com)
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP)
- **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: [www.ctjobandcareer.org](http://www.ctjobandcareer.org)
- Learn more about **Job Growth in Connecticut**: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs)



Talking about issues of the day with constituents at the Berlin Senior Center.

## A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a top priority for many senior citizens; however, this is a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the Renter's Rebate Hotline at 860-418-6377.

## A Stronger Do Not Call List

Shady telemarketers are increasingly ignoring our "Do Not Call Registry" resulting in unwanted and intrusive telemarketing calls and text messages. As technology evolves it is easier to get around the law and employ high-pressure sales tactics. That's why we passed a law this year to help Connecticut crack down on violators by increasing penalties and eliminating unsolicited text messages.

## A Smart Start for Our Kids

Recognizing there is no better way to set students on the path to lifelong learning success than a high quality pre-kindergarten experience, we created the Connecticut Smart Start program to provide 50,000 more children access to vital early education in our public schools. Combined with additional slots for private providers, our comprehensive pre-K package will reduce the achievement gap and ensure that all children are ready to learn when they arrive at kindergarten. Every dollar invested in pre-K saves \$7 in avoided special and remedial education and criminal justice costs.

